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CONSIDERABLE SURPRISE WHEN THE MEXICANS NOTED THIS TO THEM. WE RECALL THAT DURING RECENT GROUP OF FIVE MEETING IN LONDON (JUNE 21-24) BRITISH RAISED THE MATTER WITH US DELEGATION, INDICATING THEY WERE PUZZLED BY REPORTED CHANGE IN US POSITION BUT NOT CITING SOURCE OF THEIR INFORMATION. WE MADE CLEAR TO THEM THAT OUR POSITION HAD DEFINITELY NOT CHANGED.

4. IN VIEW OF APPARENT WIDE-SPREAD CIRCULATION OF REPORT IN WIRELESS FILE OF MAY 20 WHICH WAS SENT TO ALL REGIONS, DEPARTMENT THINKS IT IMPERATIVE THAT HOST GOVERNMENTS HAVE NO MISUNDERSTANDING OF US POSITION ON STATUS OF ECONOMIC ZONE WHICH IS AN ISSUE OF THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE TO THE US AND THE MAJOR OUTSTANDING ISSUE IN COMMITTEE II.

5. YOU ARE THEREFORE REQUESTED TO APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENT PROMPTLY AT A LEVEL YOU CONSIDER APPROPRIATE AND POINT OUT ERRONEOUS REPORT IN MAY 20 WIRELESS FILE AND NOTE CORRECTION IN MAY 21 WF AS NOTED IN PARA 2 THIS TELEGRAM. YOU MAY ELABORATE, AS IN YOUR JUDGMENT MAY BE APPROPRIATE, BY STATING THAT WE ARE CONCERNED THAT THROUGH INADVERTENCE THE IMPRESSION MAY HAVE BEEN CREATED IN MINDS OF SOME GOVERNMENTS THAT US NO LONGER SUPPORTS HIGH SEAS CHARACTER OF THE ECONOMIC ZONE. THIS IS ABSOLUTELY CONTRARY TO FACT. US VIGOROUSLY SUPPORTS HIGH SEAS CHARACTER OF THE ECONOMIC ZONE. TO DESCRIBE IT AS HAVING A SUI GENERIS CHARACTER, AS SOME NATIONS WISH TO DO, COULD EVENTUALLY MAKE THE ECONOMIC ZONE THE FUNCTIONAL EQUIVALENT OF THE TERRITORIAL SEA. AS THE US REPRESENTATIVES HAVE REPEATEDLY STATED AT THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE, THE UNITED STATES COULD NOT SUPPORT A TREATY PROVISION ON THE ECONOMIC ZONE WHICH GIVES IT SUCH A RESTRICTIVE CHARACTER. THE US POSITION IS THAT BEYOND THE TERRITORIAL SEA HIGH SEAS PRIVILEGES ARE RETAINED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO ENUMERATED RESOURCE AND OTHER RIGHTS OF THE COASTAL STATES. AT THE RESUMED SESSION OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK AUGUST 2-SEPTEMBER 17 THE US WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT PROVISIONS WHICH ENSURE THAT THE ECONOMIC ZONE IS ENDOWED WITH A HIGH SEAS CHARACTER.

6. USIA INFORMS US THAT THE ERROR IN THE EUR WIRELESS FILE OF MAY 20 WAS CAUGHT BEFORE THE SPANISH TRANSLATION WAS COMPLETED FOR THE WIRELESS FILE FOR LATIN AMERICA: THE WF

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FOR LATIN AMERICA (SPANISH LANGUAGE VERSION) FOR MAY 20  
ACCORDINGLY PUT OUT AMBASSADOR LEARSON'S TESTIMONY CORRECT-  
LY AND AS ACTUALLY DELIVERED.

7. FOR MOSCOW: US LOS DEL WILL DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH  
SOVIET REPS IN NEW YORK ON RESUMPTION OF LOS CONFERENCE.  
THERE IS THEREFORE NO NEED FOR YOU TO TAKE ACTION ON THIS  
TELEGRAM UNLESS MATTER IS RAISED WITH YOU BY HOST GOVERN-  
MENT.

8. PLEASE REPORT SOONEST ANY REACTIONS TO YOUR CLARIFI-  
CATION OF US POSITION ON THE STATUS OF THE ECONOMIC ZONE.  
KISSINGER

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